



# Cancellation Club NEWS

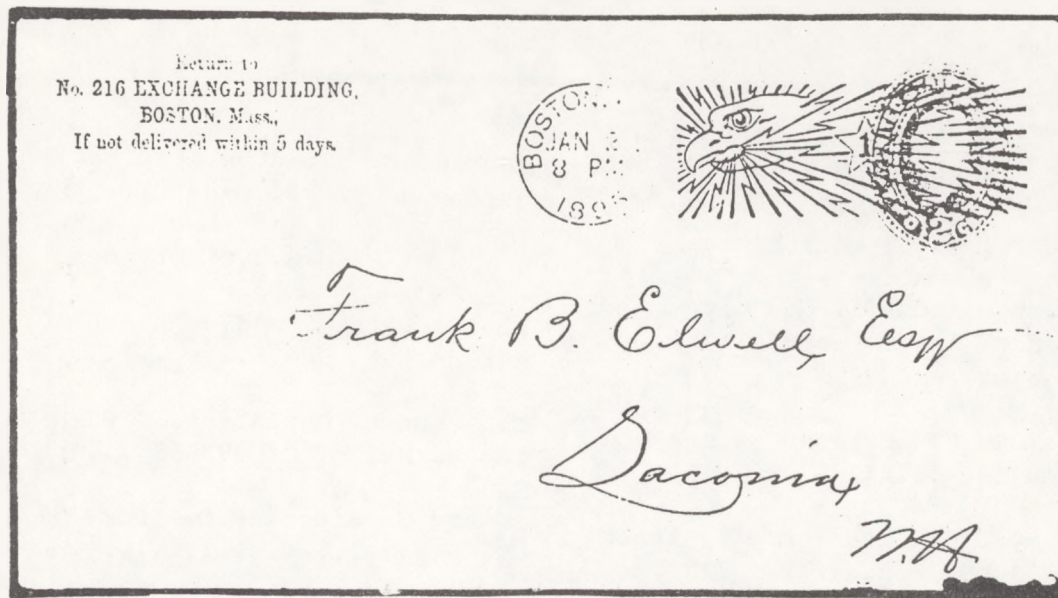
Vol. 20, No. 4

Whole Number 206

Fall 1990

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1890 Fancy Cancels.....See page 55.

### FORM THE EDITOR

In the last issue of the NEWS I noted that George Lewis was obliged to step down from his post as Secretary - Treasurer of the society. However, I failed to mention that Evelyn Lewis, the contact for membership and awards information, will also resign her duties. A replacement is urgently needed for this vital position to insure that our society will progress in an orderly and expanding manner. Those interested in assuming these necessary duties are urged to contact our president, Abe Boyarsky, or George Lewis at their earliest possible convenience.

In this issue we have two rather lengthy and scholarly articles. The first is an article on the fancy cancels of the 1890's by Sol Salkind. The second is an update of a series of articles previously published in the NEWS. On New York City cancels on the first issue U.S. postal cards, Roger

Rhoads has added a considerable amount of information to that previously published. For those new members the original article was published in 1985 and '86, whole numbers 186-88, they are available from Alyce Evans at the schedule shown below. For those interested in a thorough understanding of the current article, which will be concluded in the next issue, reference to the earlier dissertation is essential.

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Published four times a year; February, May, August and November by the U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB and included with membership. Back issues as available. Prices on request.

Annual Dues: \$8.00 per year plus a one-time admission fee of \$1.00

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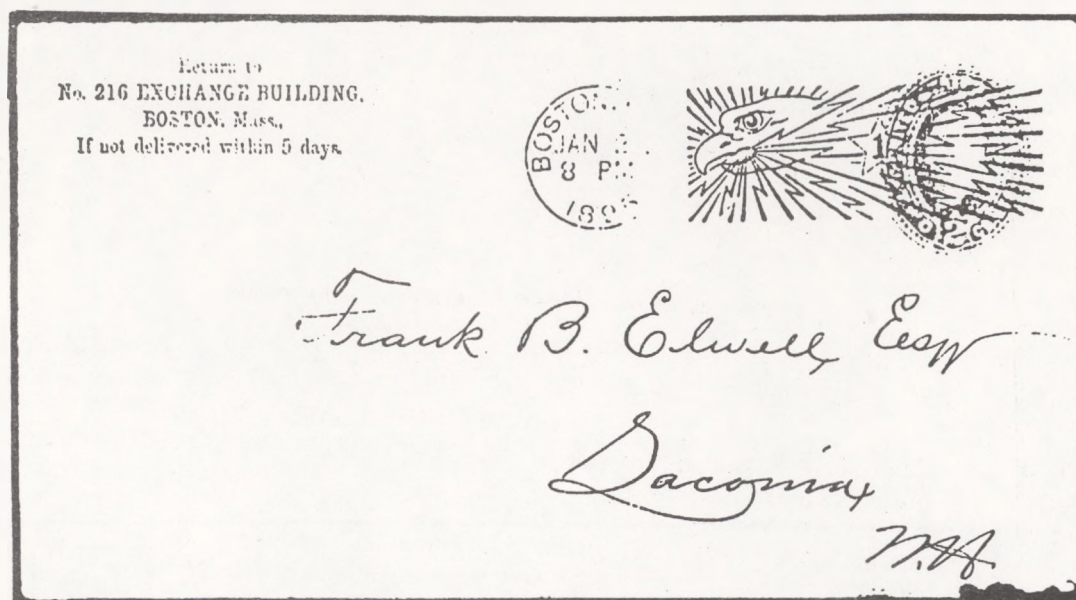
## YES, THERE ARE FANCY CANCELS AFTER THE BANKNOTE PERIOD

BY

SOL SALKIND, ASDA, APS (LIFE), CCNY

The 2¢ reds of the 1890's - Scott #219d and 220 which are "Banknote" stamps; 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 266, 267 and 279B, the Bureau issues - seem to have been overlooked by almost everyone when it comes to fancy cancels. The fancy cancel collectors of the 19th century banknotes and the earlier issues such as the 1861's and the 1869's seem to have ignored any fancy cancels after 1889.

There are as wide a variety of fancy cancels on the 2¢ reds as there are on the other classic issues of the 19th century. To mention a few of the rare cancels, the Eagle and Thunderbolt,



Eagle & Thunderbolt -- used only on Jan 2, 1895 at the Boston PO

a Dog, Skull and Bones, Masonics, a Chicken on cover will be discussed in more detail later on in this article.

The fascination of the 2¢ reds stems from the viewpoint of collecting fancy cancels. These cancels have never been common and some of these cancels are rare, if not unique. This could possibly be a fertile area of collecting in the sense that very few people have been interested in it and the field is wide open. The search through dealer's stocks and auction catalogs may yield fascinating results and usually for only a nominal price. For a greater challenge, the collector may attempt to locate the cancels on cover. Although these fancies are not at all common on cover, this media allows one to determine the origin of the marking, plus enjoy the many other postal history aspects of the decade of the "Gay 90's".

What started my interest in this stamp and this period - the 1890's - was that I happened to be at a stamp show in the 1950's where my attention was caught by one of the exhibiting dealers showing a small collection of fancy cancels on the 2¢ reds to a client, who turned it down. For a very small sum, I purchased about 25 stamps all with fancy cancels. I was so intrigued by these few stamps, I spent the rest of the show looking for more and of course, I did not find any. From that small start, I covered almost every show in New York City and the surrounding areas for the next 10-15 years looking for these stamps. My interested broadened and I started to collect almost anything in that area that looked different.

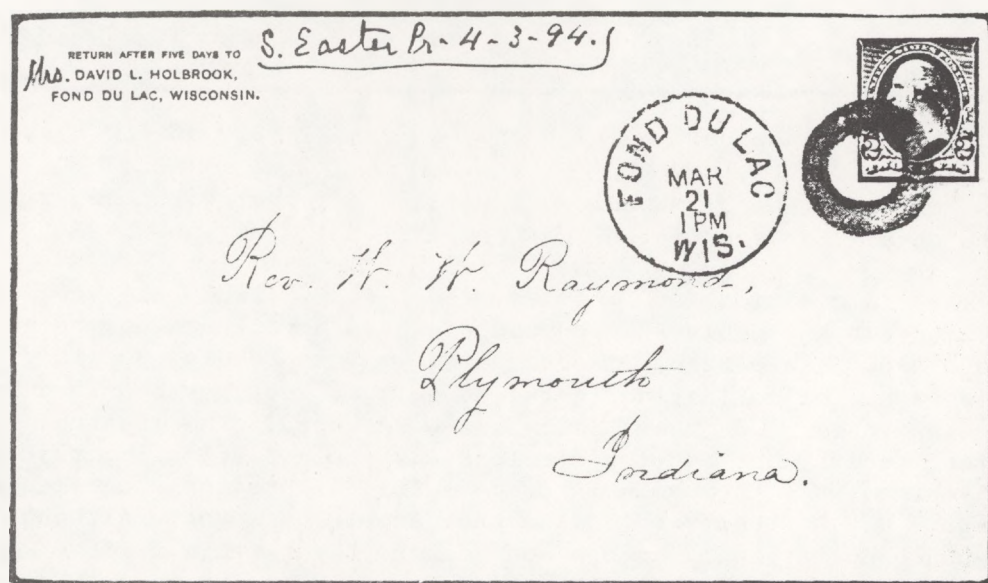
As noted in the preface to my book U.S. Cancels 1890-1900 with Special Emphasis on the Fancy Cancels Found on the 2¢ Red Definitive Stamps of this Period there has been little research in this field, except for the machine postmarks, flag cancels and a precancel catalog. This book, U.S. Cancels 1890-1900, is the first book to cover this field in depth. For convenience of use, the book is double indexed, once by topic and then by geographic location.

The cancels can be arranged or classified in a number of manners. One logical system is as follows:

Cancels (general)	Geometrics	Grids
Crosses	Human	Animals
Plants	Letters	Masonics
Numbers	Objects	Stars
Postmarks		

It should be noted that in many instances an individual cancel could be listed under more than one of the categories.

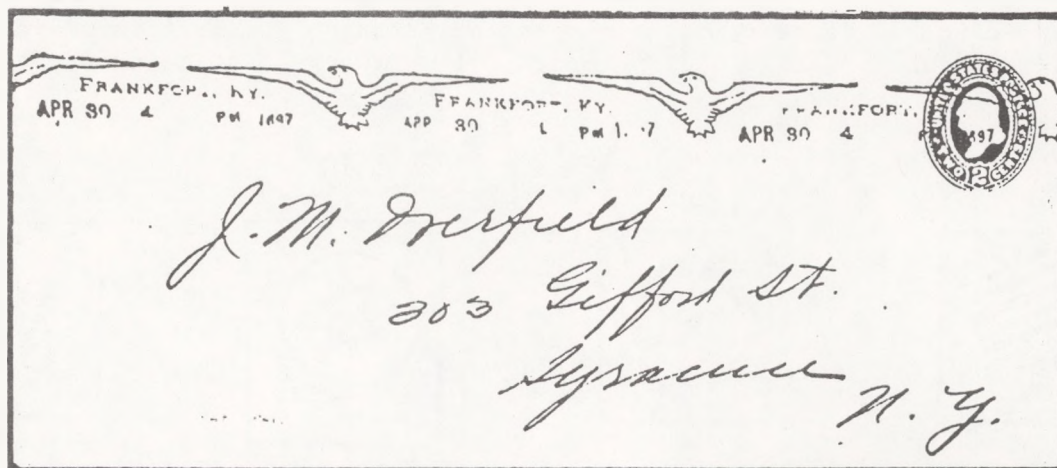
In the first category, there are the heavy solids, such as the "Black Eye,"



"Black Eye" of Fond du Lac, Wisc. -- March 21, 1894



Then there are the misshapen "ace of spades," diamonds, heavy bars, heavy circles and miscellaneous cancels such as barbed wire, solids with negative dots, etc. A few of the machine cancels of the period may be considered fancy, such as, the Eagle and Thunderbolt (illustrated above) used for only one day in Boston and the Milam and Holmes "Eagle," that just cries out to be photographed.



Milam & Holmes "Spread Eagle" of Frankfort, Ky. dated Apr 30, 1897  
The cancel is known used from Feb 19 to Aug 10, 1897.

There are perhaps five known covers of the Eagle and Thunderbolt. Equally impressive and not quite as rare is the Milam and Holmes eagle with outstretched wings. This cancel shows up to great advantage on a legal size cover, one of the few times that a legal size cover is welcome.

To finish this section, the various target cancels are shown,



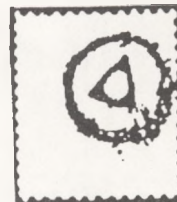
Initial "H" In Center

together with the rosettes



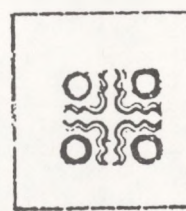
Pin Wheel

and finally the triangle cancels.



These cancels are extremely numerous and frequently almost impossible to differentiate on individual stamps. Collecting them on cover eases this enigma.

The geometric cancels encompass such items as wheels, cog wheels, simple circular designs and the more elaborate designs.



Lancaster, Tex.

Then of course, there are the rectangular designs of the period.

The next category explores the various grids, both circular and rectangular. Sometimes the several differences between the geometrics and the grids are very minor.



"E" In Grid



The crosses of the period consider varieties such as the Christian, Jerusalem, Greek and Maltese. There are also a number of misshapen styles.



Next we delve into the cancels of humans and body parts such as hearts, pointing fingers, human profiles, masks, the boogey man, Pumpkins and Skull and Bones. These are the most fascinating of the 1890 fancies.







Hudson, Ohio



The Masonic cancels plus Odd Fellows cancels are very scarce and avidly sought.



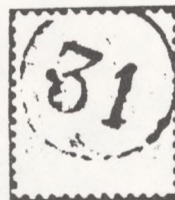
Crescent &amp; Star



Masonic Fez



Numerals from another viable group and include items that are very similar to the handstamped rate markings of the pre-stamp era. However, in general these should be differentiated from the numerals that appear in the steel, duplexed, elliptical markings issued by the Post Office.



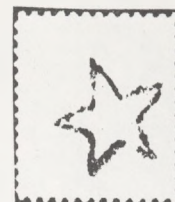
Now, we look at some inanimate objects such as anchors, axes, flags, not the machine cancel flags but little hand cut canceler flags, hats, pin wheels and shields. This will give an idea of the wide variety of topics that are available.



Rising Sun

Star cancels exist in many shapes - 4 pointed, 5 pointed, 6 pointed Star of David and many pointed stars. The 5 pointed stars contain many varieties, including outlined stars, stars with hollow centers, stars within stars, basically solid stars, misshapen stars, negative stars and geometric stars.





Ridgefield, Conn.

Finally, a miscellaneous section consists of the balance of US cancels, such as hotel postmarks, special delivery, Post Office supplied cancels, registry marks, U.S.P.O., U.S.P.O.D., US Mail, West End, NJ as well as a multitude of others. The Post Office supplied duplexed ellipses provide enough material for a study in their own right.



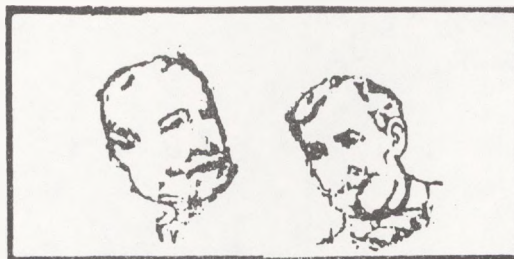
Morrison N(North)



It should be noted that some of these cancels seem so ordinary and yet there is a great diverseness of these postmarks. I have found 19 different target cancels, 14 different triangles, 66 different rosettes, 65 Maltese crosses, 82 simple circular geometrics and 47 circular grids to mention a few of the subjects. The illustrations, of course, do not show all the cancels but show the variety that exists. Surely, if a person desires to set up an exhibit of these cancels plus other cancels such as 44 Boogey Man cancels or pumpkins, masks, letters of the alphabet, stars, Post Office supplied postmarks, etc., there is enough variety to satisfy the most demanding collector.

The surprise at the diverseness and coverage of the cancels of this period never ceases to amaze people. One should be able to get a representative collection of this stamp without too much trouble since the field is so "new."

The author of this article and writer of the book U.S. Cancels 1890-1900 with Special Emphasis on the Fancy Cancels found on the 2¢ Red Definitive Stamps of this Period is Sol Salkind, 3951 Poinciana Drive, Suite 216, Lake Worth, FL 33467. He will be glad to correspond with anyone about the topic discussed.



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## NYC CANCELLATIONS ON THE FIRST POSTAL CARDS

(REVISITED)

BY ROGER R. RHOADS

In a series of three installments published in the NEWS (Fall, '85; Winter, '86; and Spring, '86) (Whole nos. 186-8) I wrote everything I could discover about NYC cancellations on the first U.S. postal card (Scott UX1,3). A number of cancels were identified from that era (May 1873 through early 1876), and I think a number of questions were answered with this work. However, as is customary, a number of mysteries still remained, and I asked for you, the readers, to help by looking through your collections and accumulations for additions and expansions. Believe me, you rose to the occasion! Ranging from one small piece of information to pages of photocopies with explanatory letters, more than fifteen of you responded. With this information along with new acquisitions, it is now appropriate to publish an update to help fill in some of the gaps, add some new information, and perhaps provoke a bit of new thought on this era.

As with the original series, the new information will be covered in the following sequence:

- I. Number Killers
- II. Letters
- III. Other Killers and Postal Markings
- IV. Circular Date Stamp Varieties.

## I. NUMBER KILLERS

In the first installment I tried to present evidence that the oft-seen numbers 1 through 14 were individually supplied to clerks in the main post office. Martin Margulis and Roger

Curran in the Fall 1986 NEWS provided documentary evidence that confirmed this finding.

But what about numbers 15 and 16? Bond in the May 1968 NEWS recorded 16 used in this time span and 15 has never been reported. Well, you readers sent photocopies of over 125 number-killed pieces. Three of you sent complete runs on this postal card from 1 to 14. This means there are a number of collectors who are looking for these numbers, and only a single "15" (Fig. 1) and not one "16" turned up. Jim



Figure 1.

Cole in a soon-to-be-published manuscript turned up the "15" with an 1873 year date. Further, he noted that David Phillips had another in an auction a few years ago.

As for the "16", no confirming copy has shown up yet. It's possible that it may not exist. It has only been reported a single time, and it may well be a damaged "6" was misread as a "16" or it was an off-cover stamp with no direct NYC connection. Either way, it is obvious that these two numbers are very rare.

The new material was consistent also in the cancel color and destinations. All were in black, and all were for destinations outside the city. A minor exception to this was a negative

"5"-killed card dated Aug. 4, 1875. It was addressed to "Williamsbridge/City" with a receiving mark of the West Farms station of the NYC P.O.

In the first installment of the series I mentioned that the negative Arabic number variety was "far and away the most plentiful." I reported that they were uniformly circular with almost no variations except for a bust-of-a-hag fantasy. (Fig. 7 in issue no. 186.) Add two more to the short list of more imaginative numbers with figures 2 and 3 which are dated Nov. 24

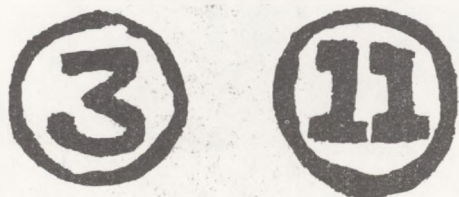


Figures 2 & 3.

(NYD) and June 19, 1875. The second item is apparently the same cancel included in the aforementioned article by Arthur Bond. Also this same cancel is shown as lot 1725 dated June 23, 1875 in the Hoffers auction catalog of March 27, 1985.

As for the positive Arabic numbers, I had noted that these represented only about 20% of the numbers studied. The additional material supports this scarcity. Also the number "4" again failed to show up. It is possible that no positive Arabic "4" was ever issued.

Most of these killers are of the variety shown in figures 4 and 5; a



Figures 4 & 5.

positive number inside a positive

circle. However, I have identified a subgroup of these positive numbers as



Figures 6 & 7.

shown in figures 6 through 9. This family has various designs of carved barred backgrounds. Figure 6 has 16 precisely spaced bars and is dated Oct. 9, 1874. Figure 7 has both vertical and horizontal bars and is dated Aug. 9, 1874. Both figures 8 and 9 have broad horizontal bars and are dated Oct. 3 and Sept. 15, 1874 respectively.



Figures 8 & 9.

Eleven different designs were found in this subgroup spanning the dates of Aug. 9 to Dec. 30, 1874. The numbers found were 1, 4, 5, 6, and 14. The digit "1" was represented by five different designs while there were three different "14" numerals. Interestingly, the numbers 7, 9, and 13 in the traditional designs with positive rims were found being used concurrently. Therefore, it is possible that these barred background positive numbers are not available in complete sets.



Figure 10.



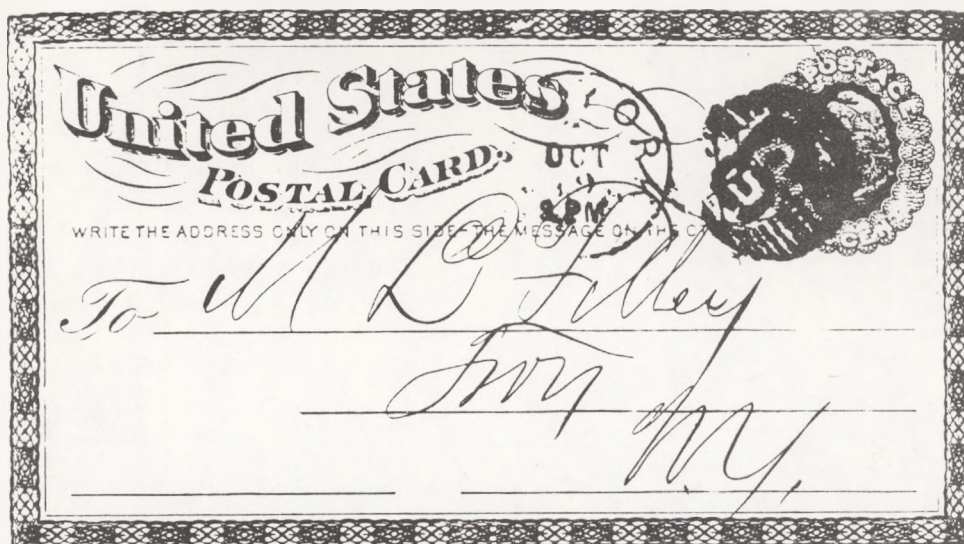
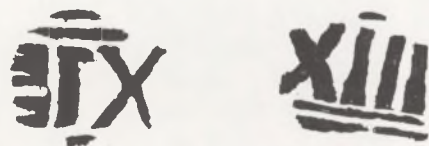


Figure 6a.

First issue postal card sent from NYC to Troy, NY, with a numeral "6" on Oct. 1874 missive.

Note the design similarities to the positive Roman numerals previously reported and shown here in figures 10, 11, and 12. Not only are the barred



Figures 11 &amp; 12.

backgrounds very much alike, but the time spans are also concurrent. The earliest of these Roman numerals found to date is Aug. 7, 1874, while the latest is Oct. 2, 1874.

With this new information we now know that all of the carved number killer types were being used in the latter half of 1874. This includes negative Arabic, positive Arabic, Roman numerals with barred backgrounds, and negative Roman numerals. Included also is the 20-barred "12" of a totally different type reported by Gilbert Levere and dated Sept. 23, of that year. Fig. 13 is another example struck six days later. It looks as though a test was in progress. Apparently the



Figure 13.

NYC PO was searching for a more durable yet readily legible killer.

And finally the NYC PO tried the 11 barred oval "5" that was reported by Joe McDonough in the Summer 1985 issue. That one was dated Dec. 1874. This was apparently the prototype for the ultimate in durability, the metal hand-stamps which were eventually adopted in May 1876. Figure 14 is a strike of "28" dated Sept. 4, 1877, a very late



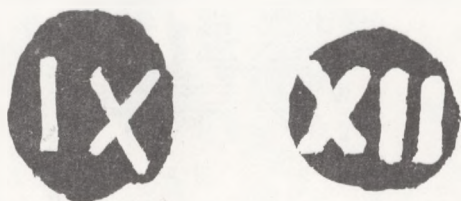
Figure 14.

use for this card. Please note that other cities began to have the same idea. Figure 15 is a similar "6" strike on a Philadelphia card dated April 4, 1877.



Figure 15.

Going back for a moment to the Roman numerals, all of the positive numbers have been accounted for except "XI" (eleven). In the previous articles I passed over the negative numerals a bit quickly. Figures 16 and 17 represent that series and are dated



Figures 16 & 17.

Oct. 27 and Aug. 21, 1874. Only the negative numbers 1, 9, and 12 have been reported to date in a variety of carvings. The later two were used in June, July, Sept., and Oct. 1874.

As for the negative Roman numeral "I" (Figure 18), its use spans June



Figure 18.

1875 to April 1876. This is well outside the experimental period of late 1874, and some of the usages are over a year later than any of the other Roman

numerals. It just doesn't seem to fit. The only ready explanation that seem to work is that the "I" killer is not a number but a letter! That is, this killer is for Station I.

In the section on "Letters", I assumed that Station I did not use a letter to avoid confusion with the number. I noted that Bond's list of the lettered stations showed a Station I for 1873-74 only. Since that time, using the 1982 APS handbook New York Postal History: the Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980, by John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr., I found that Bond was apparently in error. Station I was not established until 1875 and was closed in 1877, corresponding well to the negative "I" use dates.

## II. LETTERS

In the second part of the original article Konwiser and Bond were quoted that letter stations A through R were open during this time, save for I, P, and Q. With more complete information provided by the APS handbook, we find that stations A through I were definitely open for the entire time being studied. Stations J and N closed in 1874. Station O opened in 1875 and closed in 1877; quite a short span. Station R opened a year earlier and also closed in 1877. Station M at Carmanville closed in 1875, but the name was assigned to another station in the same year.

As of this writing, letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, and L have been reported. Based on the above closings, letters J, N, O, and R are very scarce for this time span, if they exist at all. Interestingly, all of the above letters were later reassigned to other stations. There never was a Station Q, while P and other higher lettered stations did not open until later.

In the earlier article I also described four types of killer/CDS



combinations. Since then three more types have come to light, and the seven are noted below:



Figure 19.

1. Letter at top of CDS with non-letter killer (City Delivery).

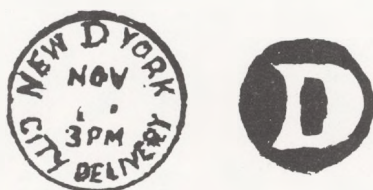


Figure 20.

2. Letter at top of CDS and in the killer (City Delivery).



Figure 21.

3. Letter at bottom of CDS and in the killer.



Figure 22.

4. Letter in killer only. Bottom of CDS blank.

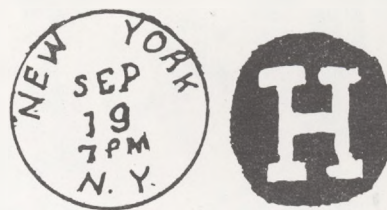


Figure 23.

5. Letter in killer only. "N.Y." at bottom of CDS.

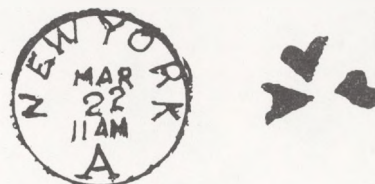


Figure 24.

6. Letter at bottom of CDS with non-letter killer.

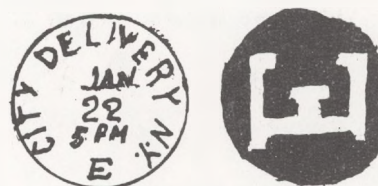


Figure 25.

7. Letter at bottom of CDS and in the killer.

Note that "G" has been confirmed and "H" has been found as well. The relative proportions previously reported still hold. That is, A and D are the most common with B, E, and F in the next few category. Fewer still were C, G, H, I, K, and L. Martin Margulis in private correspondence mentions that D is the most common on envelopes, due primarily to publishers in the area, who sent lots of mail. Further he opined that C is more commonly found than A. He also pointed out that the letters in the CDS are found with a number of type faces due to rapid wear and replacement.

The updated list of each station with the configurations found is shown below. The additional Bond data not confirmed in this study are in parentheses.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Type</u>
A	1,2,3,4,6
B	1,2
C	1,2
D	1,2,4,5
E	1,2,3,(4),(5),7
F	1,2,3
G	(3),4,6
H	5
I	4
K	1,3
L	1,3

(Ed. note---The remaining portion of this article will appear in the next issue of the NEWS.)

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#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dropped for non-payment of dues:

Alley, Otis L.  
 Buckner, John M.  
 Byers, Norman C.  
 Connaughton, John J.  
 DePauw, John W.  
 Dertz, Raymond  
 Heisler, William H.  
 Hennighan, Thomas G.  
 Hopkins, James R.  
 Knoth, Richard  
 Lawson, Lawrence B.  
 Marek, Richard J.  
 McClain, Lamar  
 O'Neill, Gary L.  
 Rhodin, Anders G.J.  
 Stollnitz, Henry S.  
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## WANTED OBSOLETE POSTAL ARTIFACTS (pre-1978)



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## BOOK REVIEW

Bozarth, Theodore W., "Walter D. Wessons', "Time-on-Bottom" Duplex Hand Cancelers," LaPosta Monograph Series, Volume 5, P.O. Box 135, Lake Oswego, Oregon, 97034, 48pp, 1990. (Available from the publisher at \$8.00)

This monograph is a compilation and update by Russell Hanmer of the 10 installment series by Ted Bozarth that appeared in the NEWS from 1982 through 1984.

It commences with a brief survey of the five patents issued to Walter Wesson between September 1877 and October 1883. Next, Bozarth discusses and illustrates the three dial types and five killer types used within these devices, whose principal characteristic is that the time of posting occurs at the bottom of the dial die.

The monograph continues with a chronological and geographical presentation. The first were used at Worcester, Massachusetts in July 1881 and the postmarks continued in use throughout the remainder of the century. However, most of the offices used them only in the 1880's.

Geographically, they have been recorded from 28 post offices, 2 railway post offices and 7 stations of the Philadelphia post office. The areal extent ranges from Boston to Burlington, Iowa and from Nashua, New Hampshire to Charleston, South Carolina. Three large post offices, i.e., Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago, had the greatest variety with 24, 18 and 16 different markings, respectively.

The monograph is undoubtedly the definitive work on these banknote era postmarks and is apt to remain so for some time. The philatelic community is indebted to Ted Bozarth for his research and to the late Russ Hanmer for his editing. An outstanding work!



Selected illustrations from the monograph.

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## SOL SALKIND



BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO!

For 25 years I have specialized in collecting fancy cancels on the 2¢ red issues of the 1890-1900 period, and my collection formed the basis for my 1985 book "U.S. CANCELS 1890-1900"

The time has come for me to break up my collection of these interesting cancels, and I am offering the stamps, individually, or in logical groups to interested collectors. I invite your inquiry and will be pleased to send approvals against references, or deposit.

(A few copies of "U.S. CANCELS 1890-1900" remain available at \$15.00 for the softbound book, and \$25.00 hardbound, postpaid.)

I hope to hear from you.

*Sol Salkind*

Sol Salkind

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